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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 20 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are in receipt of your letter to the President of the Security Council of 18 January 1993, which we received late on 19 January 1993. We were surprised by the letter, as the Presidential Statement of 8 January 1993 explicitly requests a report and not a letter with excerpted conclusions. Therefore, we must seriously evaluate the basis for a letter releasing conclusions of the investigation without the supporting evidence. We find this to be unusual at the very least.

We must add that, while your letter includes some detail on the difficulties encountered by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in escorting members of the Presidency of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its conclusion on the assassination itself is entirely unsupported. We hope that publication of the full report will shed light on the situation in a clear manner, to which we can respond appropriately.

The leadership of Serbian occupation forces was informed of the presence of Mr. Turajlic in the armoured personnel carrier during the two hours before the assassination, and had ample opportunity to communicate its instructions to forces at the scene. The Serbian leadership was certainly in a position to order that Mr. Turajlic not be harmed, had that in fact been their intention. On the contrary, Serbian forces insisted on opening the door of the armoured personnel carrier and, once it was opened, made use of the opportunity to kill the Deputy Prime Minister.

It strains credibility to accept that this entire sequence of events, involving several levels of Serbian ledership, was the act of one soldier

acting alone. At the very least, the Serbian leadership is guilty of criminal complicity in the killing.

We look forward to the publication of the full report of the Special Commission of Inquiry, and hope that this report will shed more light on the behaviour of Serbian occupation forces. We will at such time give a response to the conclusions presented therein.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative